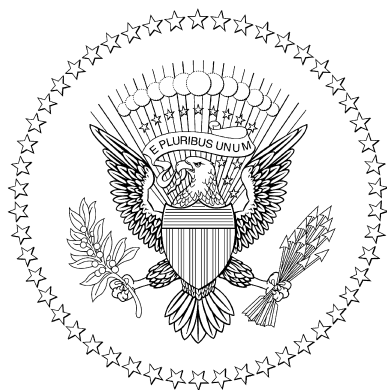


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES



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UNITED STATES

# George Bush



1991

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK I—JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1991

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## *Foreword*

On January 16, 1991, the United States and its coalition partners launched Operation Desert Storm. At midnight on February 27, the guns fell silent; Iraq's unlawful occupation of Kuwait was ended. This was a victory for every country in the coalition and for the United Nations. This Nation fought with honor and valor. We owe our heartfelt appreciation to our sons and daughters in our Armed Forces who achieved such a quick and decisive outcome.

Before launching the operation, the United States explored every avenue for a principled peace. The United Nations, with the full support of the United States, had tried to apply peaceful pressure to force Iraq out of Kuwait and had given Iraq until January 15 to comply with its resolutions. Secretary of State Baker travelled to Geneva to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Aziz on January 9 to convince him of the seriousness of our will. Despite all our efforts, Saddam Hussein chose to ignore the UN's deadline to withdraw from Kuwait. We had no choice but to use military force, and, as a result, Kuwait is once again free.

In its wake, the Gulf War also opened an historic opportunity to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute. To move this process forward, Secretary Baker made numerous trips through the region, to see whether the United States could act as a catalyst for peace. We made great progress toward our goal of convening a Middle East peace conference. At the same time, to address another serious problem in the region—the proliferation of destabilizing conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction together with the means to deliver them—I proposed a Middle East arms control initiative.

The Persian Gulf and Middle East were not, however, the sole focus of attention during this time. Economics and trade remained important issues. To aid our goal of a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, and the North American Free Trade Agreement, I asked Congress to extend my “fast track” negotiating authority. I also signed a transboundary clean-air agreement with Canada, added additional measures to our trade enhancement initiatives for central and eastern Europe, and extended Most Favored Nation trading status to the People's Republic of China for another year. On February 4, I proposed that agreement be reached on a global climate change convention by June 1992.

U.S. relations with the Soviet Union were, as always, of central importance. The successful international effort to oust Saddam Hussein from Kuwait would have been immeasurably more difficult without the cooperation of the USSR. Nevertheless, we did not let this deter us from protesting the excessive use of Soviet force in the Baltic Republics. At the same time, to help alleviate a serious food shortage confronting the people of the Soviet Union, I sent a mission there to examine and report back to me on the food distribution system. In light of their recommendations, I extended additional credit guarantees to the Soviet Union. I also waived the Jackson-Vanik Amendment because of the USSR's greatly improved record in emigration.

To maintain our competitiveness internationally, we must invest wisely in America's future—by promoting excellence in American education. My national education strategy, "America 2000," will help us achieve by the year 2000 the six national education goals which the Governors and I announced in 1990. America 2000 calls for a nationwide effort involving every sector of our society and all Americans. It is intended to stimulate reform and restructuring of our education system in ways that enhance local control and innovation, while at the same time encouraging parental involvement and choice and improving student achievement levels.

In my State of the Union Address, I proposed an aggressive program of new prevention initiatives to promote a healthier America, including Healthy Start for infants. The Administration offered proposals for medical malpractice reform, and my Budget also increased support for Federal biomedical research. A strong Federally assisted highway system is critical to our economy, and my Surface Transportation Assistance Act is intended to achieve this important goal. Our National Energy Strategy will strengthen America's future by increasing energy efficiency, expanding the Nation's fuel and technology choices, and developing all of America's energy resources in an environmentally sound fashion. Additionally, cost-effective environmental initiatives for implementing the Clean Air Act, revising our wetlands policy, and seeking ways to reduce air toxic emissions will ensure a safer environment for all Americans.

A sound, internationally competitive banking system is also critical to our economic vitality and the financial well-being of our citizens. This Spring, I proposed comprehensive financial sector reforms that would modernize our outdated banking laws in order to make our banking system stronger and safer. This legislation offers a carefully balanced, integrated approach to increased competitiveness, a sound deposit insurance system that safeguards the deposits of all Americans, and a national regulatory structure that is both stronger and streamlined.

In my State of the Union Address, I emphasized the need to "put more power and opportunity in the hands of the individual." I retransmitted a crime bill, the Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act of 1991, to the Congress. We could create thousands of new jobs for individuals in our cities by encouraging expanded investment through urban enterprise zones. We also asked the Congress to help us expand opportunities for greater tenant ownership of public housing and tenant management in dozens of American communities. And if we want to expand opportunities for individuals, we need to make sure that barriers to such opportunities are eliminated. That is why we are vigorously enforcing the civil rights laws that enhance individual opportunity.

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## *Preface*

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 41st President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period January 1–June 30, 1991. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include all material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed full-text in the book, acts approved by the President, and proclamations and Executive orders. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan are also available.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Gwen H. Estep. The Chief Editor of this book was Karen Howard Ashlin, assisted by Sheli Fleming.

White House liaison was provided by Marlin Fitzwater, Assistant to the President and Press Secretary. The frontispiece and photographs used in the portfolio were supplied by the White House Photo Office. The typography and design of the book were developed by the Government Printing Office under the direction of Robert W. Houk, Public Printer.

Martha L. Girard  
*Director of the Federal Register*

Don W. Wilson  
*Archivist of the United States*



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1991

